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State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

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As you are aware the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services and Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services submitted updated Appendix K waiver amendment flexibilities for the FSW and CIH waivers. These were approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. These amendments are additive to those previously approved and are effective from March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Below is a list of the temporary general flexibilities currently available to support individuals and providers during this emergency situation. For a more detailed explanation and additional information on the current flexibilities available, we strongly suggest visiting [Guidance for BDDS Providers on Temporary Policy Changes Related to COVID-19 and Appendix K, As of September 1, 2020](#) and [BDDS Temporary Policy Changes Related to COVID-19](#).

Administrative Flexibilities

- All non-ANE incidents and non-COVID to be reported within 48 hours.
- Updated flexibility on potential staff's limited criminal history check to be initiated prior to hire.
- Allow potential staff to be hired by and work for an existing Medicaid/BDDS approved waiver provider to provide direct supports to participants prior to being trained.
- Allow potential staff to be hired by and work for an existing Medicaid/BDDS approved waiver provider to provide direct supports to participants prior to having a TB test.
- Allow staff to work 90 days beyond CPR/First Aid certification expiration date.
- Allow person-centered service planning activities to be completed by phone with electronic signature or email consent.

Service Specific Flexibilities

- Allow telehealth as a service delivery option when warranted as authorized by BDDS.
- Expanded language in family paid caregiver in re-defined circumstances.



- Expanded language waiving the 40 hour per week per paid caregiver limitation on family members when existing services on the individual's PCISP have been interrupted due to circumstances related to COVID.
- Expanded language for RHS reimbursement for overnight staff/paid caregiver.
- Allow RHS reimbursement for time when staff/paid caregiver is asleep.
- Expanded language for SFC allowances.
- Modify SFC visits to require at least one face to face visit.
- Allow services in alternative sites.
- Allow flexibility in day service ratios.
- In unique and rare situations, the home of a DSP familiar to the individual may be used as a temporary/alternate waiver residential setting for a participant when the participant's primary caregiver has been diagnosed with or quarantined due to COVID-19.

Case Manager Specific Flexibilities

- If a 90-day BMR has been requested previously, additional BMRs may be requested for a period of up to 60 days.
- Temporarily allow BMRs to be filed within 60 calendar days of the event or status change.
- Extend annual LOC assessments that are due on or before June 30, 2020 to have a new due date of December 31, 2020.
- Temporarily waive the requirement for a Confirmation of Diagnosis to complete Level of Care for re-entries to waiver services.
- Allow initial and annual level of care assessments to be completed by telephone.